

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/125,711

Examiner

DUC Q DINH

Applicant(s)

SHALIT, THOMER

Art Unit

2674

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on August 19, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 17-20, 22, 24-33, 35-36, 38-54 and renumbered as 1-34.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 04 March 1999 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


XIAO WU
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Erik B. Milch on January 21, 2005.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 17 (Currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a housing having a base, a casing and a button, said casing and said button being movable with respect to said base;

a tracking element disposed within said housing, said tracking element configured to track a motion of said housing in a first direction and a second direction different from the first direction;

a movement generator disposed within and coupled to said housing, said movement generator configured to deliver a tactile sensation to the casing in response to a sensory feedback signal received over a signal channel; and

a resilient material disposed between said casing and said base, said resilient material configured to store and release ~~deliver the tactile sensation by storing and releasing~~ energy.

Claim 30 (Currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:

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a housing including a lower portion and an upper portion, said lower portion movable over a substantially flat surface, said upper portion being movable with respect to said lower portion;

a tracking element disposed within said housing, said tracking element configured to track movement of said housing with respect to the substantially flat surface;

a movement generator disposed within and couple to said housing, said movement generator configured to output a tactile sensation through said upper portion of said housing in response to a sensory feedback signal received over a signal channel; and

a resilient material disposed between said lower portion and said upper portion, said resilient material configured to store and release ~~enable the output of the tactile sensation by storing and releasing~~ energy.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 17-20, 22, 24-33, 35-36, 38-54 are allowed and renumbered as 1-34.

Reason for Allowance

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention related to an apparatus and a method to provide a tactile sensation for a computer input device such as a mouse. The closest prior art of Salcudean et al. (U. S. Patent No. 5,790,108) show similar system which also provide a tactile sensation to the input device using an force created by an resilient material. However, Salcudean el al. fails to disclose

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a housing having a base, a casing and a button, said casing and said button being movable with respect to said base;

a movement generator disposed within and coupled to said housing, said movement generator configured to deliver a tactile sensation to the casing in response to a sensory feedback signal received over a signal channel; (claim 17) or

a housing including a lower portion and an upper portion, said lower portion movable over a substantially flat surface, said upper portion being movable with respect to said lower portion;

a movement generator disposed within and couple to said housing, said movement generator configured to output a tactile sensation through said upper portion of said housing in response to a sensory feedback signal received over a signal channel; (claim 30) or

receiving at a mouse device a sensory feedback signal, the mouse device having a button, a casing portion and a bottom portion, the button and the casing portion being movable with respect to the bottom portion, a resilient material being disposed between the casing portion and the bottom portion; and

generating a movement of the casing portion of said mouse device with respect to the bottom portion of said mouse device in response to said received sensory feedback signal. (claim 43)

These distinct features has been added to independent claims and renders them allowable.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

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fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **DUC Q DINH** whose telephone number is **(703) 306-5412**. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 8:00.AM-4:00.PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **RICHARD A HJERPE** can be reached on **(703) 305-4709**.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

Or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivery response should be brought to: Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive,
Arlington, Va Sixth Floor (Receptionist)

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

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DQD

January 21, 2005



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